wisconsin
Emerald Ash Borer
eNEWSLETTER
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UPDATE: The Emerald Ash Borer in Wisconsin

Survey & Quarantine

Looking for the Killer

Workers with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) have wrapped up the 2009 Emerald Ash Borer Summer Survey. Since May, the group of nearly 40 seasonal employees set up, maintained and inspected just over 6,800 traps across the state in an effort to locate populations of the tree-killing beetle that has already destroyed millions of ash trees in the Midwest. The work is funded in large part through a cooperative agreement with the US Dept. of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Plant Protection and Quarantine.

DATCP trapper Nick Johnson readies a survey trap near the Mississippi River.
photo courtesy Mick Skwarok, WI DATCP

The sticky, purple traps helped discover three new beetle populations this summer.

"Many adult beetles were caught on traps near areas already known to be heavily infested with the tree-killing beetle, namely around Newburg in the southeast and Victory in the southwest," said Jennifer Statz, EAB program coordinator with DATCP. "But this year's program also turned up signs of potential infestations in the cities of Green Bay and Kenosha and in Crawford County, just a few miles south of Victory."

Additionally, city workers in Franklin (Milwaukee County) alerted DATCP staff to some ash trees that appeared unhealthy and were subsequently confirmed as positive for EAB. DATCP staff removed several EAB larvae from the trees.

The summer's discoveries put the number of "EAB-positive" counties in Wisconsin at seven.

"Finding an adult beetle in a trap only gives a glimpse of what might be happening in an area. Finding infested, compromised trees – as in Franklin – tells us that there is an established infestation underway," Statz said. "In either case, these communities likely have a lot of work ahead of them in the years to come when it comes to responding and managing this issue."

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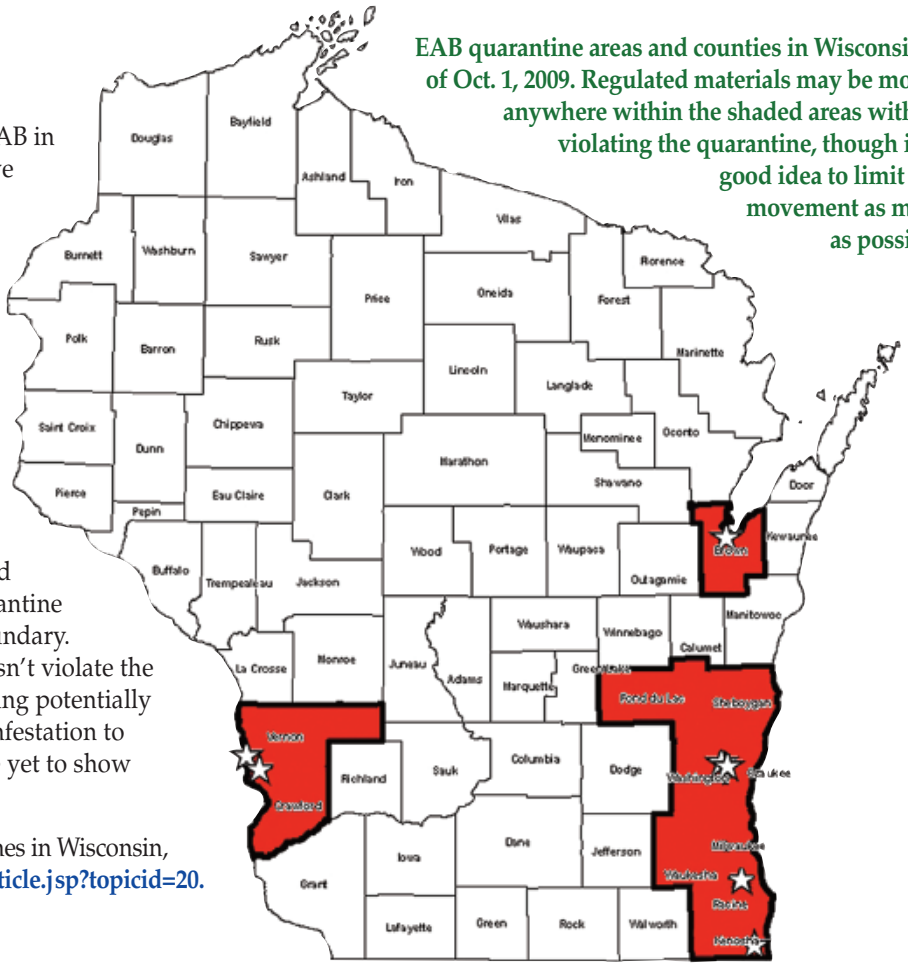
Slowing the Spread of EAB

To try to slow the man-made spread of EAB in Wisconsin, state and federal agencies have banned the movement of all hardwood firewood, ash logs and other ash products from quarantined areas. Anything that could move the pest undetected into new, non-infested areas is a restricted item. Firewood is the leading culprit behind new infestations because of its common and largely unregulated movement.

As of early September, there were 14 counties quarantined in the state. Firewood and ash materials can be moved anywhere within a multiple-county quarantine area, but cannot leave the quarantine boundary. Even though moving those products doesn't violate the quarantine, it's still a bad idea to be moving potentially infested materials from known areas of infestation to areas that are under quarantine, but have yet to show signs of infestation.

For more information about EAB quarantines in Wisconsin, visit **http:/www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/article.jsp?topicid=20.**



EAB quarantine areas and counties in Wisconsin as of Oct. 1, 2009. Regulated materials may be moved anywhere within the shaded areas without violating the quarantine, though it's a good idea to limit that movement as much as possible.

EAB quarantine areas map courtesy WI DATCP

Wisconsin's Urban Forestry Best Management Practices for Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species

Invasive species (including plants, insects and diseases) can kill trees, reduce the benefits provided by our forests, decrease overall biodiversity and burden property owners with exorbitant control costs. Managing existing invasive species infestations is difficult, expensive and often requires years of effort. For that reason, two of the most important invasive species concepts to consider include preventing their occurrence and limiting their spread.

Thanks to urban forestry stakeholders across the state, Wisconsin now has a set of voluntary urban forestry best management practices (UF BMPs) for preventing the introduction and limiting the spread of invasive species. These BMPs identify effective and realistic practices that can be integrated into routine urban forestry activities to limit the impact of invasives. The manual was written for arborists, urban foresters, nursery growers and retailers, landscape architects, grounds managers, landscape contractors and other urban forestry professionals; however, homeowners and other members of the public are encouraged to utilize the manual.

Implementation of the UF BMPs is a logical first step in the management of Wisconsin's invasive species. The BMPs are meant to be incorporated into daily routines and existing systems already in place. The manual recognizes a wide range of possible response options to any invasive species situation. Determining appropriate actions involves complex decisions that are context dependant. Practitioners applying BMPs need to select strategies and responses appropriate for their circumstances. Implementation of the UF BMPs will need to include education and outreach and will require a long term commitment.

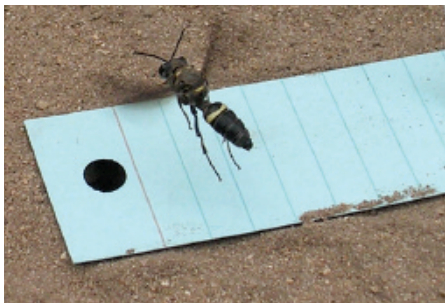
Ultimately, everyone involved in the care and management of trees, shrubs and other vegetation shares in the responsibility of preventing and controlling invasives. By taking reasonable and practical precautions today, we can help protect Wisconsin's urban forests and other lands into the future.

Wisconsin's Urban Forestry Best Management Practices for Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species is available at **http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/urban/ .**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Olivia Witthun at **Olivia.Witthun@wi.gov** or 920-303-5421.

Native Wasps May Aide in Search for EAB

The native *Cerceris* wasp (*Cerceris* fumipennis) is a solitary, ground-dwelling insect that eats emerald ash borer and other similar beetles. Wisconsin DNR researchers spent the summer locating colonies of *Cerceris* around the state. The wasp prefers hard-packed, sandy soil areas surrounded by woods.
photo courtesy Jeff Roe, WI DNR



If a wasp brings a beetle back to its nest, the paper cover placed by researchers prevents it from dragging its prey to its home. Researchers collect the dropped beetle and determine if it's EAB. Wasps only collect food from within a mile radius of the nest, so if they bring back an emerald ash borer, scientists know that EAB is nearby.
photo courtesy Bill McNee, WI DNR

A female *Cerceris* wasp prepares to emerge from its underground nest.
photo courtesy Bill McNee, WI DNR

Bill McNee, Wisconsin DNR forester, shows a *Cerceris* wasp to a group of campers at Peninsula State Park in Door County. *Cerceris* wasps are not known to sting people, posing little threat to campers and others.
photo courtesy Bill McNee, WI DNR

Keep Firewood Local

The advice is becoming more familiar all the time – help protect your trees and don't move firewood.

photo courtesy Phillip Harrell, WI DATCP

Emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, oak wilt, beech bark disease, and many others potentially on the horizon in Wisconsin are successful in large part because they hitch easy rides from place to place on firewood.

With so many threats to trees and forests in our midst, remember how easy it is to help protect your own property.

If you plan to heat with wood this winter, be sure you know the source of your firewood and that it was harvested within 50 miles of where you'll burn it. Even closer is even better. Please, refrain from moving your firewood long distances unless it was cut and has been curing and drying for two years or more. It's worth the benefit to your trees that are still alive and well.

Top 3 ways to obtain firewood:

1. Gathering or harvesting wood where you will burn it is the best bet for campfires, home heating, deer camps and other uses for wood.
2. If gathering is not possible, purchase wood that is certified by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Read your labels so you can make an educated purchase. After all, you don't want to spend money on wood that is a threat to your trees at home or in your favorite natural area!
3. If you cannot find certified wood, harvest or purchase wood within 50 miles or less of where you will burn it.

Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin Madison & Extension, US Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture APHIS PPQ